Extension Service - United States Department of Agriculture

WARTIME EXTENSION WORK

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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Farm labor, home food supply, and a survey of extension leadership headline the week's summary.

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PENNSYLVANIA
October 1, 1943

Extension leadership.-Recently, in 58 counties, 31 county home economics workers and 51 county agricultural agents were interviewed by members of central extension leadership committee in special effort (1) to ascertain extent to which leadership has been and is being developed; (2) to determine current thinking of county portion of extension staff with regard to use of leaders; (3) to impress upon county personnel importance of this phase of extension procedure; and (4) to obtain leadership information which may be helpful in determining what special follow-up is needed from supervisory staff and others to accelerate this phase of program. To these ends a leadership questionnaire was designed and used in interviewing the 82 county people.

A summary of this study is planned, to aid in later discussions of subject with individual workers and in sectional or State conferences. Opinions of subject-matter specialists on service they might perform in leadership development in counties were obtained at September extension staff conference and also at subsequent conference with heads of extension subject-matter departments and central committee.

WASHINGTON
September 27, 1943

Farm labor.-Peak of farm labor needs will be reached in October when 23,000,000 boxes of apples must be picked and packed, along with handling of other late crops. All extension workers are giving central Washington boys a hand to get additional help they will need, as nearly all of farm labor demands are now from that area. From 60,000 to 70,000 seasonal workers will be needed. Many extension workers plan to take part of their annual leave to pick apples.

State conference.-Plans under way for State extension conference here November 9 to 12 are to have most of program devoted to discussions on how to solve some of the problems of farmers and how to increase food production. Instead of having usual scheduled talks, converence may be divided into small sessions where problems of each farming district will be discussed and answers sought. This will be done largely by county agents, with State specialists helping out. How to meet 1944 food goals and farm labor will be important subjects for discussion. Idea is to make conference as useful as possible in answering agents' extension problems.

Home food supply.-After meeting of State Food Distribution Agency representatives, Extension was given big job in encouraging preservation and storage of surplus crops. For example, tomatoes were in abundance and extension put on campaign to get both farm and city folks to preserve as much of crop as possible. Same is true for cabbage, carrots, and potatoes.

Intensive campaign throughout summer and early fall, to encourage and present information on canning fruits and vegetables, was followed by shift of emphasis to canning, curing, and cutting meats. Series of demonstrations on this subject will be carried on during late October, November, and early December in virtually every county in State. Specialists will help at these sessions.

Storing, drying, and brining are featured in Save-the-Food campaign now under way. A six-page circular showing storage pits and drying equipment and explaining methods of brining has been released for State-wide distribution, largely through neighborhood leaders.

4-H Clubs.-New program is being worked out to put 4-H enrollments on permanent basis. Under new procedure, boy or girl fills out enrollment card only once. Card goes to inactive file when member is not carrying project. Enrollments are open entire year. Plans for new club years are set up as soon after September 30 as possible. Project completions will continue as in past.

WYOMING
October 1, 1943

Farm labor.-Two hundred farm and ranch hands, brought into State in August by Labor Division of Extension Service particularly to help in harvesting hay crop, were returned to their homes in southeast Oklahoma September 15, after completing contracts for 28 to 36 days of work. These men gave excellent service, and employers almost as a whole were well satisfied. It is not too much to say that they saved hay crop in some counties. A few workers obtained necessary permission to remain in Wyoming as full-time dairy hands.

After long negotiations by extension and other officials, 285 Italian war prisoners from Scotts Bluff, Nebr. camp are now employed on farms in Goshen County, working in potato, bean, and beet fields. Smaller number from camp at Douglas are working on nearby ranches and farms in Converse County.

In dry-farming sections of Wyoming, hay is put up, grain crops are harvested and threshed, and labor problems for year are over except for small demand for a few full-time sheep herders.

Twenty-four soldiers from guard company at Heart Mountain Relocation Center near Cody volunteered to work with night crews in bean warehouses in Powell, thus relieving bottleneck in bean harvest in that area. With beans rolling into warehouses, there was shortage of labor for night crews. One warehouse, finding itself literally smothered in beans, in its advertising shouted, "Ain't it going to rain no more?" At this point, soldiers voluntarily stepped into the breach, and crews comprised of men in military service working from 6 to 12 in evening are relieving situation.

Powell, with close to 30,000 acres of beans to harvest, has been largely supplied with labor from Heart Mountain Relocation Center. Bulk of this labor was housed at camp developed through cooperation of American Legion, Park County Farm Labor Committee, Director of the Relocation Center, Wyoming Extension Service, and bean industry, including warehouses and farmers.

Food and nutrition.-Cooperation has been given new Federal aid program for school-lunch projects. County extension agents are giving publicity, and county nutrition committees have been urged to sponsor program in their local groups. Encouragement has been given to all wartime projects through demonstrations, publicity in local papers, and on radio programs.

Home food supply.-Food preservation clinics dealing with proper methods of freezing, canning, drying, and brining were continued into September. These demonstrations, held in all counties, were open to public. In September, main emphasis was placed on canning of fruits and tomatoes, making of kraut, and storage of root crops. At four district 4-H Club contests, demonstrations featured by club teams were on schemes of canning fruits and vegetables, use of fats, and vegetable storage. Demonstrations were also given in seven counties by specialist in horticulture on methods of constructing storage pits and cellars.